

**JUBILEE SESSION**

**Synopsis of**

# **Proceedings**

**FIFTIETH ANNUAL MEETING**



*Esto Perpetua*

# **Dominion Grange**

**PATRONS OF HUSBANDRY**

**Carls Rite Hotel, Toronto**

**December 15 and 16, 1924**



# **Patrons of Husbandry**

## **DOMINION GRANGE**

1874-1924, Organized June 2nd., London

### **FIFTIETH ANNUAL SESSION**

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#### **First Day**

Carls Rite Hotel, Toronto, Dec. 15th, 1924.

Grange opened in due form in the fourth degree at 2.30 p.m., with Bro. W. E. Wardell in the chair, owing to the late arrival of the Worthy Master, H. Bertram, he being detained through a heavy snowstorm, making the trains late.

The following officers assisted: Recording Secretary, Chas. Parker; Secretary-Treasurer, Hattie Robinson; Overseer, John Stewart; Chaplain, John Pritchard, M.P.; Steward, William Glenn; Assistant Steward, Ernest Carr; Gatekeeper, Adam Reis; Ceres, Mrs. W. Oke; Pomona, Miss A. McMaster.

The minutes of the last meeting having been printed and sent out, on motion of Bros. Carr and Glenn, were declared adopted.

#### **Report of Fair Board Representatives**

National fair, reported by Bro. J. C. Dixon of Moorefield:

An immense concourse of people attended, and the committee meetings were most optimistic and well conducted. Regarding fairs, his observation was, that crowds assemble at fairs following the course of their natures. They pay more attention to the non-essentials of a fair and leave the more important things concerning agriculture aside. In his opinion, people needed to be educated more highly regarding the ideals which constitute a fair.

Western fair, reported by W. E. Wardell, St. Thomas:

He spoke, corroborating the former remarks, but emphasized the fact that a mixture of exhibits must be produced in order to satisfy the sight-seeing public.

The London fair board had been at considerable expense toward better accommodation and facilities.

Both speakers spoke of the cordiality with which they had been received as representatives of the Grange.

#### **Jubilee Picnic**

Miss Robinson, secretary, condensed report

The picnic and jubilee celebration committee appointed last session met a number of times in both London and St. Thomas, and, according to resolutions passed, held a joint picnic with the East Middlesex U. F. O. at Pond Mills, near London, June 3rd, with baseball and games of all kinds, the leading features being platform addresses, with Past Master Bro. J. C. Dixon in the chair. Excellent and eloquent speeches were made by Past Masters J. G. Lethbridge, M. L. A., Hon. E. C. Drury and W. F. W. Fisher, dealing with the difficulties of the pioneers and benefits of the Grange of the past and present.

Despite the busy season, several thousand were present. The rain coming on

in the late afternoon hindered it from being a financial success, as the expenses were heavy, but socially it was a day long to be remembered.

An account of the first meeting was kindly given by the editor of The Farmers' Advocate, whose father had much to do with the establishment of the Grange in Canada.

The Farmers' Advocate, July 1874, Dominion Grange, Patrons of Husbandry:

We take great pleasure in informing our readers that our Dominion Grange has been organized. Delegates from the different Granges met in London the 2nd of June and there, by unanimous vote, decided upon the organization of the Dominion Grange, accepted a constitution and bylaws and elected officers.

"Of this meeting we can only say that the speeches and work of the representatives present showed very plainly that we do not need to go to the lawyers for men of ability to represent us in parliament, or to the merchants for thoroughly practical business men. There was no hesitation, nor stuttering, no want of words to convey ideas. Many of the speeches contained the true germs of eloquence, and all of these were practical and business-like, and we feel that we had just cause to be proud of our brother farmers.

Officers: Worthy Master, S. W. Hill, Ridgeville; Overseer, T. Leth, Danville, Que.; Lecturer, A. Gifford, Meaford; Steward, W. Weld, London; Asst. Steward, Capt. Burgus, Hyde Park; Chaplain, W. Cole, Sarnia; Treasurer, Adam Nicholl, London; Secretary, T. W. Dyas, London; Gatekeeper, R. L. Galer, Dunham, Quebec; Ceres, Miss Steed, Sarnia; Pomona, Miss Whitelaw, Meaford; Flora, Miss Weld, Delaware; Stewardess, Miss Armstrong, Plymouth; Executive committee, J. F. Cass, Le'Original; Stephen Wade, Union; Matt. Garner, Woodford; J. Armstrong, Camalachie; Capt. Burgess, London; H. Anderson, London."

Of those present at that meeting, only two survive, Miss Weld, now living in Vancouver, and Henry Palmer, Meaford. The Worthy Lecturer, Alfred Gifford of Meaford, who took a great interest in preparations for the jubilee, and whom many of you deeply regret, passed away at his home in the spring.

The first annual meeting of the Dominion Grange was held Sept. 22nd and 23rd, 1874, in the agricultural hall, Toronto, with 73 members present, representing 44 Granges. I have in my possession a complete file of the annual meetings and a careful perusal shows that the meetings have all kept up the high standard set by the founders, as portrayed by the Advocate of 1874.

## Resolutions on Legislature Roll Call

The resolutions only are given, each one being fully discussed by the sponsor and the members present, and either carried or sent on to the legislative committee to report after due consideration. The committee appointed were Bros. W. J. Goodfellow, Strowd; John Stewart, Gorrie, and W. C. Good, M. P., Paris.

First—John Pritchard, M. P., Harriston:

"Resolved that it would be advisable for members of constitutions to send resolutions regarding attitude on the leading question of the day to their members elect." Carried.

Second—Bro. Ernest Carr, Painswick Grange:

"Resolved that it be advisable to build permanent highways." Referred.

"Resolved that this Grange favor a tax on gasoline for use of motor vehicles." Referred.

Third—Bro. W. J. Goodfellow:

"Resolved that we commend the action of the Minister of Education in conferring more power to public school trustees." Referred.

"Resolved that the Grange strongly advocate the reading of the bible in the public schools." Carried.

Fourth—Bro. J. C. Dixon, Moorefield:

"Resolved that the abolition of statute labor would cost excessively for the employment of a staff of workers and overseers." Referred.

Fifth—Bro. W. L. Smith, Toronto:

"Resolved that we should protest against the shipping of small trees in large quantities for Christmas trees, etc." Carried.

Sixth—Bro. Wm. Glenn, Forest Rose Grange:

"Resolved that we deplore the apparent extinction of certain kinds of animal and bird life, and that steps should be taken to enforce the game laws for their protection, especially the fur-bearing animals and beneficial birds." Carried.

Seventh—Miss Robinson, Apple Grove Grange:

"Resolved that privilege of games of chance now being asked for by some of the fair boards from the Federal Government be not granted by them, and in our opinion all lotteries and games of chance in connection with patriotic, religious and other societies should be made illegal." Referred.

Eighth—Bro. W. C. Good, M.P.:

"Resolved that we approve of physical training in our schools, but not military training." Referred.

Ninth—Bro. Parker, Minesing Grange:

"Be it resolved that the Government be urged to finish the work of natural reforestation by drainage, as having been begun in the Nottawasaga Valley and adjacent streams." Carried.

Tenth—Bro. John Stewart, Gorrie:

"Resolved that some better method of distributing the cost of hydro power be adopted by the commission." Referred.

Eleventh—Bro. Bertram Edgar, Grange:

"Resolved that we refer the question of reforestation to the committee." Carried.

The Worthy Master, Howard Bertram, having arrived during the roll call, spoke briefly on the resolutions, and stating that through illness, must be excused from his annual address. He spoke of the work of the Grange in Canada and the United States, the benefits of the ritual and obligations, and expressed the belief that an effort should be made to extend the order, and if possible re-establish some dormant Granges, and bring into the fold the U. F. O. clubs at this, our fiftieth anniversary.

The address was received with applause.

On motion of Bro. Dixon and Sister Robinson it was adopted as given.

The election of officers for 1925 then took place by open vote, the result of which will be found on back of cover.

Bro. W. E. Wardell gave an excellent address on "The Raising of Sugar Beets," which had proved a source of revenue to the farmers of Elgin and Kent.

The adjournment then took place for supper in the beautiful hotel dining room of the Carls-Rite. Most of the members remaining for this annual social event, and enjoying the bountiful repast of mine host Carroll.

Grange reassembled at 7.45 p.m., worthy master in the chair.

The committee on legislation brought in their report on the following subjects:

Resolution Number One:

"Resolved that we direct the attention of the Provincial Government to the great destruction of timber by spring floods and the need for remedial measures;

And further, that in our own opinion the time has come when consideration should be given to the propriety of imposing restriction upon the calling of timber on private property."

This report was adopted on motion of Bros Wardell and Key.

Resolution Number Two:

"Resolved that in our opinion the present method of assessing the costs of distributing hydro electric power is fundamentally wrong, and that the whole matter should be thoroughly reconsidered with the view of furnishing power to all parts of the province at approximately the same cost."

This resolution adopted on motion of Bros. Goodfellow and Pritchard.

Resolution Number Three:

"Resolved that we are emphatically opposed to any military training in our school, but entirely in favor of physical training;

Further, that we recommend that more attention be paid to having the bible read regularly in our public school;

Further, that we commend the action of the Minister of Education in increasing the power of public school trustees and boards of education."

Resolution No. 3 was ably and forcefully dealt with by Rev. W. A. Morris, who is actively interested and engaged in school work throughout Ontario. In reference to article one of these he did not see that the course of training, as provided in our secondary and high schools, as at present conducted, were highly efficient in physical culture, while not lending in any direct way to militarism. In dealing with article two, the speaker felt convinced that that should primarily be the work of the church and home. School curriculum, as at present, involves the reading of a portion of the Word of God every day and also a short form of prayer.

There should be a greater co-operation between urban and rural school conditions. Education should contribute, firstly, to the welfare of the child, secondly, that it should also stand for the betterment of national and political conditions, and help to build up a higher type of citizenship.

The discussion and adoption of further resolutions was deferred to the morning session.

Bro. John Pritchard, M.P., East Wellington, gave an address on "Farm Problems." He said:

## **Farm Problems**

Perhaps no mathematician has a greater problem confronting him than the farmer that sits down with pencil and paper to make a calculation, at the beginning of any one year, of what his profits or losses are likely to be for the ensuing twelve months. While it is true that a great deal depends on the ability of the individual himself, there are many things that must enter into his calculations over which he has no control. There is the price he is likely to obtain; there are unfavorable weather conditions, up keep of buildings, etc. Let us suppose that we are fortunate enough to escape all misfortunes and Providence gives us a good return for our labor in a fair crop. Out of these returns the first things to be considered is interest on cost of farm equipment, depreciation of fences and buildings, taxes and insurance. After allowing for any of the contingences I have mentioned and the wages of hired help, the balance will be wages that he and his wife will receive. Two classes of farmer, as a consequence of this, are moving into town, the man who is broke, and the one that has enough to live on. This means deserted farm lands. Can farming be made profitable and how? There is much to be said in favour of the selection, breeding and care of our live stock, as well as a better system of marketing, also in regard to the cultivation of the soil and rotation of crops.

Much as might be said, and truthfully too, about the discouragement of farming, we have those who have, by industry and economy, made for themselves and their family a very nice competency. Those that have a liking for farming as an occupation, there is no finer under the sun.

The wage problem is perhaps the one most difficult because of the rate of wages established by the Government to civil service and the price fixed by organized unions as well as that fixed in the professions. No working man is in the position to accept for his services the pay that the farmer is able to give him. This has developed into the situation where the farmer and his family are over-worked, while in the cities there is continual talk of unemployment.

So long as we have an arbitrary fixed price for the services for part of our people, while the remuneration the other receives is regulated by the law of supply and demand, entering into competition with cheap labor in other countries there can not be any real national prosperity. A very marked instance of the disparity between the remuneration that the Government allow its employees living in the rural section and those in the urban may be seen in the post office department, where the rural mail courier is receiving, for a twenty mile trip, \$600 a year, the city letter carrier obtains \$1,500. The farmer must compete with all comers, while the more fortunate city man has his price fixed, and although many men are out of employment in the city who would gladly do the work for less, the same rule that applies in the rural district is not allowed to apply in the city.

As they are paid out of the national treasury each subscribes to the fund with the distinct understanding that when it is paid out the one shall receive for his services two and one half times as much as the other. How good natured. All this is largely the result of organization. Each class of city dwellers have in turn organized for their mutual advantage. Through their various unions they have made demands on Governments and have succeeded in getting legislation enacted to their advantage.

No body of people can receive any advantage only at the expense of some other part of the community, and as all other classes are so organized except agriculture, the farmer must, of necessity, become the prey of all these parasites that have germinated in Canada in the last half century. Perhaps the unhealthy condition of agriculture can be attributed more directly to the inroads of these microbes than any other cause.

Are we willing to be reduced to the position of serfs, or are we going to assert ourselves and demand that we be master in our own house. If we continue along the same course we have been pursuing, there must, out of necessity, be one standard of living for the man in the city and another for the man in the country. Anglo Saxons will not stand for this. With the result that the boy and the girl fit themselves and succeed in getting even many of the best jobs offered in the city, while the alien, that will accept a lower standard of living, will come and occupy and eventually own our fertile farming land.

The policy of the Dominion Government has been, and still is, to encourage emigration to go on land, while our own farmers, as I have described, drift cityward, and passing through our Universities and schools of learning, which act as an incubator, providing a fine class of citizens for the United States. Taxed to keep up schools and colleges, on the one hand, to fit them to be good United States citizens, while we are taxed, on the other hand, to render assistance to a less desirable class to come in and possess our lands.

If we expect to be able to cope with these things, organization is the first essential. The prosperity of agriculture will depend upon our success in marshalling our forces, who have for their object the success and welfare of our farmers. It is only reasonable to expect that the hitherto organizations that I have referred to will oppose, in every way, any effort on the part of the farmer towards self preservation. This is not a question that affects only one individual, but the whole community. It is also one of national importance. In a country like Canada farming is the basic industry. Make

agriculture prosperous and all other classes will prosper. Then the people will flock to our shores and we will not need to act as an incubator for the United States, but with an ever-increasing population we will need all our people at home.

## Politics and the Grange

The next subject, by Bro. W. C. Good, M.P., in a calm and dignified manner, gave a general survey and Grange work, quoting from the National Grange Declaration of Principles, "We ignore any connection with any political factions." The Grange non-partizan, but have as their objective "The uplift of all phases of public life." "Why should any person or organization be constitutionally prohibited from discussion of public questions?" asked the speaker, with the answer, "The failure of humanity to amicably discuss political questions without taking individual political sides."

He described the working and objects of The Patrons of Industry, Grain Growers, U. F. O., and Farmers' Association, all leading up to independent thought and the progressive party of group representation.

W. L. Smith was then called on, and in a forcible address strongly endorsed the previous speakers opinions, but entertained the view of public propaganda through education of public opinion. He also contended our interests as citizens would be effected by the system of direct legislation through petitions and like means. In closing his remarks he congratulated the longevity of the Grange in Canada, viz., 50 years under the many serious hardships which they had labored and eventually had succeeded.

The last speaker was Bro. W. F. W. Fisher, the veteran secretary and master of the Dominion Grange, who congratulated the Grange on their 50th anniversary, endorsed the action heretofore taken, and that such action be sustained, enlivened and improved for the good of the order. He based his remarks on the subjects brought forward during the session, giving them his hearty approval.

Bro. Carr was appointed as auditor pro tem.

Meeting then adjourned.

## Second Day, Tuesday, 8.45 a.m.

The third session of the 50th annual meeting opened with Past Worthy Master J. C. Dixon occupying the chair.

## Treasurer's Report

<i>Receipts</i>		<i>Expenses</i>	
Grange fees .....	\$ 94 95	Delegates R. R. ....	\$ 80 45
Subscriptions .....	4 20	Grange Magazine .....	4 20
Donations .....	24 00	Printing proceedings .....	32 00
Sales .....	1 60	Tax and stamp .....	1 92
1923 cash balance .....	73 80	Jubilee picnic .....	\$ 15 75
	<hr/>		<hr/>
	\$ 198 55		\$ 140 32
	Balance.....	\$58 23	

HATTIE ROBINSON.

## Auditor's Report

Toronto, Dec. 16th, 1924.

Audited and found correct. Cash on hand \$58.23.

ERNEST W. CARR.

## Secretary's Report (Condensed)

Worthy Master, Brothers and Sisters:

My report will be brief, but is very satisfactory. No granges have given up their charters and there is a gain in the membership this year. Many requests have come for Grange literature, notably that from The Public Archives Alexander Fraser, asking for copies of the proceedings from our inception. I was able to supply most of these, but the earlier copies have only one which have brought, and copies of these are being made at the Public Archive Department, Parliament Buildings. Anyone having old proceedings would confer a favor by sending to me.

During the year Michigan State Grange held an auto tour through Canada and were welcomed by the western members at a large gathering at the fair grounds, London, in the evening of August 30th.

It has been suggested that subordinate Grange Juniors be changed to Seniors upon marriage, they then pay the usual capitation tax.

The jubilee picnic at London, June 3rd, has already been reported. Owing to weather conditions a small deficit of \$18.75 has been fully met, through the kind donations of Granges and friends.

Make the most of all opportunities to fraternize with the other societies in your neighborhood, meet regularly, change your officers frequently, and always have a programme of some kind at your meetings.

Fraternally submitted,

HATTIE ROBINSON.

This report was adopted on motion of Bros. Pritchard and Key.

On motion of Bros. Wardell and Pritchard, it was carried to ask for representation on the royal fair board, and that if granted Bro. J. C. Dixon be appointed for 1925.

The resolutions left from the preceding evening were read by the Recording Secretary Bro. Parker.

The committee recommended that the resolutions on the game laws and games of chance be adopted, those on the highway and statute labor be considered. Adopted on motion of Bros. Glenn and Orchard.

A discussion on school trustees, their powers and duties, proved very interesting. Among those taking part being Bros. Stewart, Dixon, Bertram, Goodfellow, Pritchard, Orchard.

On motion of Bros. Wardell and Dixon, Bros. Orchard, Goodfellow and Parker be a committee to investigate and report at the next annual. Carried.

A hearty vote of thanks was accorded to the management of the Carls-Rite hotel for the comfortable audience room placed at the Grange disposal free of charge.

The new officers were installed by the Secretary, Miss Robinson, assisted by the retiring Master, Bro. Howard Bertram.

When the enthusiastic jubilee session of the Dominion Grange was closed at 10.30, in due form, the verdict of all was "it was good good to be there."

## In Memoriam

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ALFRED GIFFORD

of Meaford

One of the founders of the Grange in Canada

1872—1924

Master, Georgian Grange, No. 13, 1873

First Lecturer, Dominion Grange, 1874

First and only Secretary, Provincial Grange of  
Ontario, 1880-1886

Lecturer, Dominion Grange, 1918-1919

A strong advocate of Farmers' Organizations

*His works do follow him.*



# Officers of Dominion Grange

ELECTED AT ITS FIFTIETH SESSION

1924

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<i>Worthy Master</i>	W. E. WARDELL, Apple Grove Grange, St. Thomas, R. R. 1
<i>Worthy Overseer</i>	HOWARD BERTRAM, Edgar Grange, Midhurst
<i>Worthy Lecturer</i>	W. L. SMITH, Farmers' Sun, Toronto
<i>Worthy Secretary-Treasurer</i>	HATTIE ROBINSON, Elgin Div., St. Thomas, R.R. 1
<i>Worthy Chaplain</i>	JOHN PRITCHARD, M.P., Ninth Line Grange, Harriston
<i>Worthy Steward</i>	ERNEST CARR, Painswick Grange, Allandale
<i>Worthy Asst. Steward</i>	WM. GLENN, Forest Rose Grange, Glanworth
<i>Worthy Gatekeeper</i>	ADAM REIS, Ninth Line Grange, Clifford
<i>Worthy Ceres</i>	MRS. W. OKE, Union Grange, Whitby
<i>Worthy Pomona</i>	MISS A. McMASTER, Maitland Grange, Palmerston, R.R. 3
<i>Worthy Flora</i>	MISS M. THOMPSON, Maitland Grange, Harriston
<i>Worthy Lady Assitant</i>	MRS. H. BERTRAM, Edgar Grange, Midhurst
<i>Worthy Recording Secretary</i>	CHAS. PARKER, Minesing Grange, Minesing

## *Executive Committee*

BROS. H. BERTRAM, E. W. CARR, J. C. DIXON

## *Resolution Committee*

BROS. W. J. GOODFELLOW, JOHN STEWART, W. C. GOOD, M.P.

## *Legislative Committee*

BRO. J. G. LETHBRIDGE, M. L. A., Glencoe (chairman.)

## *Education Committee*

BROS. ORCHARD, PARK AND GOODFELLOW

## *Auditor*

BRO. W. F. W. FISHER, Burlington

## *Representatives National and Western Fair*

BROS. J. C. DIXON, W. E. WARDELL